

EXPERTS SEEK HELP FOR HOMOSEXUALS!

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A worldwide survey is being conducted to determine the extent of popular support for a new approach to homosexuality. Under the proposed change, an international agency would be established to sponsor impartial programs of public education and social study on the practice. The supporters of the plan include a group of social psychologists. As a member of the group, and a writer in the field, I have agreed to prepare this overview.

The programs of the new agency would be available worldwide. Among them: multi-language tape cassettes of seminars for law enforcement and public officials, parents, educators, clergy, and businessmen; public discussion and lecture programs; a consulting service for policy-making agencies in the public and private sectors; educational materials on all aspects of homosexuality, made available to schools and the general public; and a lecture bureau of experts on the subject.

In addition, this writer would conduct a syndicated radio program, for the agency, designed to answer questions from listeners, separate fact from fiction about homosexuality, and explore its related human and social problems around the world.

Supporters of the project are conducting a preliminary survey of professional opinion on it, in countries around the world. Members of the public can voice their opinions by writing to PUBLIC OPINION, BOX 25, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10458

In the view of all concerned, it is time for the adult population of the world to face the facts of life about homosexuality. Keeping it a forbidden subject has served to hold much of mankind in a state of perpetual ignorance, fear, and prejudice on a matter of universal human concern. The effects are measureably harmful.

Most people are intimidated by the mere mention of homosexuality. The majority are anxious to avoid the subject because the social stigma attached to it provokes combined feelings of shame, immorality and guilt, in them, to talk or think about it.

Persons who have sexual anxieties are deeply affected by the forbidding silence. Some turn to counselors because an honest, intelligent discussion of homosexuality with relatives or friends is virtually impossible. Others withdraw into total silence, their repressions often breeding mental and emotional disorders. While functioning as heterosexuals, their inner frustrations are usually expressed in various forms of punishing behavior, such as compulsive violence, brutality, homosadism, moral zeal, alcoholism, promiscuity, drug addiction, marital tyranny and sexual incompatibility.

Homosexuality owes much of its life to a union of human confusion and social secrecy. Public information on the practice is still severely limited and obscure, where it is not distorted, misguided, or forbidden. The main centers of learning remain the streets and hangouts. The ready teachers: pornographers.

In the same way, society conditions much of homosexual behavior. Schooled in hearsay, the most casual students of the practice - individuals of all ages who have healthy heterosexual instincts - are emasculated and demoralized by their automatically assigned roles as detested perverts. As a result, many suffer breakdowns of the heterosexual instinct and, in some cases, sexual identity. Unaware of this syndrome, and unable to cope with the combined onslaught of its devastating effects plus utter rejection and ridicule by others, they surrender, in trauma, to structured roles in the family of sexual outcasts. Their behavior does not derive from some mysterious abnormality in their make-up, as generally believed; it is conditioned by society.

Even well-adjusted persons mistake their homosexual experiences as a way of life. Others pervert the practice out of confusion or compulsion.

Bewildered young initiates follow along. Their parents in blind torment, often wish them dead or confined.

This ancient order of approved ignorance, sexual crises, and quiet chaos daily envelopes countless families around the world. It still frightens the rest of mankind. If the order fails the human trust, it faithfully reflects the social disarray on the question.

The body of respected citizens includes numerous stereosexuals -- persons who are erotically sensitive to members of both sexes. (The term "bisexual" is widely misused to identify members of this group. By definition, as you know, "bisexual" describes only those rare cases in which both male and female reproductive organs are present.

Stereosexuals are the many humans who can respond on both channels of sexuality, relating to their own and their object's innate sexual character. The stereosexual male, for example, always relates himself as a male, to a female on a man-to-woman basis, and to another male on a man-to-man basis.) Many are happily married and devoted parents; yet, the relatively few stereosexuals and homosexuals who come to social attention are banned from community life and work pursuits, regardless of how productive, qualified, or peaceable they may be, and with little or no knowledge of their disciplines.

Underlying the policy of exclusion is a fear of their promiscuity in social group life. Research shows, to the contrary, that moral opposition to such behavior is greater among homosexuals and stereosexuals than among heterosexuals. It indicates a basic need: to help the facts catch up with their fictional counterparts in the popular mind.

The universal nature of these conditions commends the establishment of an international agency to sponsor impartial public education and social research on homosexuality. Popular reaction to such an approach, as expressed in letters to the address given above, will influence the decision to go ahead with or abandon the project. People everywhere, then, will be the final arbiters of this plan to serve the common interest.

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By printing this article, we take neither a pro nor a con stand on the issue. As the article states, "Popular reaction to such an approach, as expressed in letters to the address given above (PUBLIC OPINION, BOX 25, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10458), will influence the decision to go ahead with or abandon the project."

We print this article because if you are not aware of the project, you will not be able to make your opinion known!